GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3702
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008
UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

:

(a) whether about 18,000 level crossings are unmanned;

(b) whether the percentage of accidents has increased at unmanned level crossings; and

(c) if so, measures taken to man unmanned level crossings to check loss of lives and property?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU)

(a): As on 01.04.2008 there are 17,966 unmanned level crossings on Indian Railways (Excluding Canal and `D` class cattle crossings).

(b):

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total Accidents	473	415	351	325	234	234	195	194
Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents	73	80	82	86	65	65	72	65
Unmanned Level Crossing Accident (in %)	15.43	19.28	23.36	26.46	27.78	27.78	36.92	33.51

The percentage of unmanned level crossing accidents over total accidents had shown an increasing trend upto year 2006-07, it has come down in 2007-08 from 36.92% to 33.51%.

(c):1) Proper Road Signs have been provided on the approaches to level crossings so that the road vehicle drivers are made aware of the existence of level crossings.

2) Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the approaches to level crossing gates so that the road vehicle drivers are reminded to reduce their speed.

3) Whistle Boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings. The train drivers are required to whistle right from the whistle board till such time the train crosses the level crossings gate in order to warn the road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched for checking whether the drivers are whistling from such Whistle Boards.

4) To educate the road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio, newspaper advertisements and street plays.

5) Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licenses, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. All Chief Secretaries have been requested to co-operate in educating the road users.

6) Road users must realize that a train traveling at 90 KMPH covers 25 metres per second. Thus, although to the road users, the train

appears to be 200 metres away, in terms of time it is only 8 seconds away. This message is being conveyed to them progressively by various publicity measures.

7) Joint ambush checks with civil authorities to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989 are being intensified.

8) Village panchayats are involved in their public awareness programmes.

9) The Safety posters are being put up at level crossings and Village Panchayat Offices progressively.

10)The Safety posters are being put up progressively at retail fuel pumps.

11)The level crossing gates are progressively being manned in a phased manner where justified.

12)Retro-reflective boards are being provided on the level crossings for improving the visibility during the night-time.